

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

December 14, 2012

“The Regular Session of the 2013-2014 biennium will convene on January 30, 2013, following a one day meeting on January 9, 2013 held solely to elect officers, adopt rules, and otherwise organize the session.” (www.ncleg.net)

2012 Interim Reports

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Rep. Bryan Holloway, Co-Chair

Rep. Linda Johnson, Co-Chair

Rep. Jerry Tillman, Co-Chair

[2013 Education Oversight Final Report](#)

Committee on Career and Technical Education

Rep. Bryan Holloway, Chair

Sen. Harry Brown, Chair

[Legislative Research Committee on Career and Technical Education Final Report](#)

Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

Rep. Julia Howard, Chair

Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, Co-Chair

[Work Plan Status as of December 12, 2012](#)

Child Fatality Task Force

[Task Force Membership](#)

[Pregnancy Termination Risks Bill Draft/Healthy Behaviors Curriculum](#)

Digital Learning Environments in Public Schools

Sen. Dan Soucek, Chair

Rep. D. Craig Horn, Chair

[Legislative Research Committee on Digital Learning Final Report](#)

Wrap Up of Committee Work ~

This week, committees focusing on public education wrapped up their work for the year and before the long session begins on January 30. Links to reports are available above. What follows is a brief synopsis of those reports.

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee’s report provides an overview of the three meetings held. It does not offer any recommended legislation. All presentations are available on the committee’s website under [Committee Meetings](#). This includes reports made by the Department of Public Instruction. Another report worth highlighting is a study of the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs presented by Dr. Alisa Chapman, Dr. Charles Thompson and Mr. Kevin Bastian, available [here](#).

The Committee on Career and Technical Education focused on diploma endorsements in its draft recommended legislation. This would allow students to choose to focus electives in order to complete coursework necessary for endorsements for “career,” “college,” or “career and college.” The Department of Public Instruction worked with the committee on this concept and intends to continue to work with legislators on making minor changes to the legislation.

The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee meets year-round. At its December meeting, staff reviewed the on-going work plan. Included in the eighteen projects are six pending projects (i.e. no work has commenced). Two of these relate to the Department of Public Instruction, including a review of its operations overall and one specifically on the charter school office.

The North Carolina Child Fatality Taskforce met on Monday, December 10, and voted to recommend legislation put forward by Representative Stam. In its amended form, the draft bill requires the School Health Education Program in G.S. 115C-81(e1)(1) to include “information about the preventable causes of preterm birth, including induced abortion as a cause of preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies.”

The Digital Learning Environments in Public Schools Commission has the most extensive drafted legislation of these committees. The four drafted bills address the following: (1) the State Board of Education to establish digital competency standards that will provide a framework for schools of education and licensure requirements for teachers and school administrators; (2) the State Board of Education to set the standard for sufficient classroom wireless connectivity and to conduct a survey of the capacity of each school based on that standards; (3) flexibility for a county to use lottery funds for digital learning needs (rather than school construction projects) with certain conditions and time restrictions; and (4) a statement of intent that the General Assembly will transform funding from textbooks to solely digital materials by 2017.

Looking Ahead to the Long Session~

The NC Free Enterprise Foundation, Inc. provides a useful profile of all members of the 2013 General Assembly, available at its website, www.ncfef.org or by clicking [here](#). The General Assembly will officially establish committee leadership at the January 9 meeting.

The State Board of Education is guided in its approach to legislation by the [Guiding Principles](#) adopted in 2011 and 2012. It also is guided by its vision statement, adopted at the October board meeting. The vision statement and related resources are available at <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>. At the December State Board meeting, I linked the vision statement to legislative priorities. Those slides are available by clicking [here](#).

This is the last legislative update for 2012. It also is my last day in this position. For inquiries after today, please contact Martez Hill, executive director for the State Board, at martez.hill@dpi.nc.gov or Loretta Peace-Bunch at loretta.peace-bunch@dpi.nc.gov.

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